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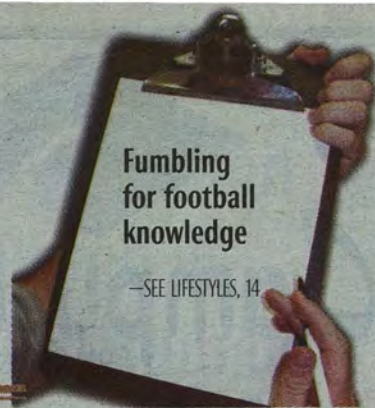
—SEE SPORTS, 10



THE central florida FUTURE

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER SERVING UCF SINCE 1968

Thursday January 23, 2003



Fumbling
for football
knowledge

—SEE LIFESTYLES, 14

Candidates to run as a pair, not trio

*Last-minute confusion
revived question of
whether SGA would elect
one vice president or two*

BEN BAIRD
STAFF WRITER

And then there were two.

The Student Government Association, currently run by a president and two vice presidents, has officially nixed one of those secondary positions leading up to next month's SGA presidential elections.

The long-discussed decision alerts potential candidates that they must run as a two-member — rather than three-member — slate. That matter had remained unresolved even as the deadline for candidates to declare their interest approached.

The period for candidates to announce their intentions opens Monday and runs through Jan. 30. Active campaigning is scheduled to begin Feb. 10, with elections scheduled for Feb. 17-19.

Students voted last fall to trim the trio at the top to two. Then, in November, Tom Huddleston, UCF's vice president for student development and enrollment services, officially approved the change.

The triumvirate was first installed in 1998 with the creation of an executive vice president to serve in addition to the student body president and student body vice president.

Yet with the election looming, the issue was revived again with student senators' discovery that they had failed to strike a line from existing SGA statutes that still made mention of an executive vice president.

Following that discovery, Sens. Oren Falkowitz and Tyler VanVorhees introduced a measure Jan. 16 to eliminate the post. Others objected, referring to what they saw as an 11th-hour maneuver.

Rather than resolve the dispute, however, the Senate forwarded the matter to the SGA Judicial Council.

On Tuesday, SGA Chief Justice Christopher Polk released a statement announcing that only two candidates would be allowed to run on a single presidential ticket after all.

Besides declaring that a two-candidate ticket would stand for the upcoming election, the Judicial Council also ruled that any person currently holding the position of executive vice president would be allowed to remain in office for the duration of their term. That preserves the job currently held by Executive Vice President Brian Battles until May 8, when the newly elected student body president and student body vice president will be sworn in.

"The Judicial Council made their decision, and that's what we'll have to go with,"

PLEASE SEE *Current* ON 7

Students forced to register

SHELLEY MARMOR
STAFF WRITER

Saad Laassel woke at 4 a.m. to try and arrive ahead of time to avoid the long lines. Still, the senior computer science major had to endure a three-and-a-half-hour wait before he was questioned, fingerprinted and photographed as part of a new anti-terrorism measure that brought him to the U.S. government's attention merely because of his place of birth.

Laassel, from Marrakech, Morocco,

was among the thousands of people across the country recently required to register with the Immigration and Naturalization service as part of the new National Security Entry-Exit Registration Program.

This registration process applies to males 16 and older who entered this country on or before Sept. 30, 2002, on temporary visas — a group that primarily singles out businessmen and students. These males come from one of 25 predominantly Muslim countries that the government has

classified as having a high-risk of terrorist activity.

Anticipating the same crowd that Laassel expected, the Orlando INS office opened at 7:30 a.m., 30 minutes earlier than normal, on the day the registration requirement went into effect.

When his turn finally came and his name was called, Laassel walked into a room where he filled out a three-page questionnaire. He had to allow INS

PLEASE SEE *Registration* ON 3



ADAM ROSCHE / CFF

Jessica Paulson, sophomore, looks at the dent on the back bumper of her Mazda, a problem similar to what many UCF students have had to deal with.

New day new dents

*Damaged cars drain
students' dollars*

RACHEL ZALL
STAFF WRITER

After a long day on campus, junior Alyssa Corsaro gets into her car and prepares to leave. Only one thing delays her departure — the driver who just backed into her bumper in the dirt parking lot.

"The person was there, but didn't care enough to even get out of her car," Corsaro, 20, said. "She

finally got out when she realized I wasn't moving out of her way."

Many students, staff and faculty members have encountered Corsaro's situation on this car-congested campus. Racing back to their vehicle after class or at the end of a workday, they find a new dent and the driver who did it nowhere to be found. Other times they may find themselves bumper-to-bumper with another driver trying to make a similar escape. Whether drivers are distracted by cell phones, the juggling of papers

PLEASE SEE *Accidents* ON 4

Cross that intersection and risk a \$45 ticket

CARY GRAYSON
STAFF WRITER

A new traffic light in front of the Recreation and Wellness Center has eased traffic congestion, but pedestrian jaywalking is still rampant by students who continue to cross the intersection outside of marked crosswalks and stroll through "don't walk" signals.

But pedestrians, who have a misconception that they have the right of way over drivers, now will face a \$45 fine if they are caught jaywalking by UCF Police.

"It is definitely a problem, people walking right out in front of you," said Sgt. Troy Williamson, the crime prevention coordinator at UCF. "Essentially there's no fear, and people get hurt when they think that."

PLEASE SEE *Jaywalking* ON 4

INSIDE

Catch your breath

Some students sweat the idea of working out at the gym.

—LIFESTYLES, 16

Stoned cold sober facts

Why do drug commercials push pot propaganda?

—OPINIONS, 8

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UCF FACT

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Bush promises more for black, Hispanic colleges

The Bush administration will propose a 5-percent increase for the 2004 fiscal year for programs for historically black colleges and colleges with large Hispanic enrollments. The proposed expenditure, \$371-million, would represent an increase of nine percent over the 2002 level.

The announcement of the proposal came late Sunday, days after Bush angered many minority educators when he said his administration would file a brief with the U.S. Supreme Court opposing the University of Michigan's affirmative-action policies.

The proposed increase would benefit three federal programs that award grants competitively to institutions serving black and Hispanic students for projects like construction, student services, scholarship aid and faculty development.

A total of 99 institutions are eligible to apply for grants under the Strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities Program.

Over all, Bush wants to increase support for the three programs by 30 percent from 2001 to 2005. When he was running for president in 2000, Bush proposed increases over five years of 77 percent for the two programs for historically black institutions and 90 percent for Hispanic-serving institutions.

'Think Ghetto' party for King holiday cancelled

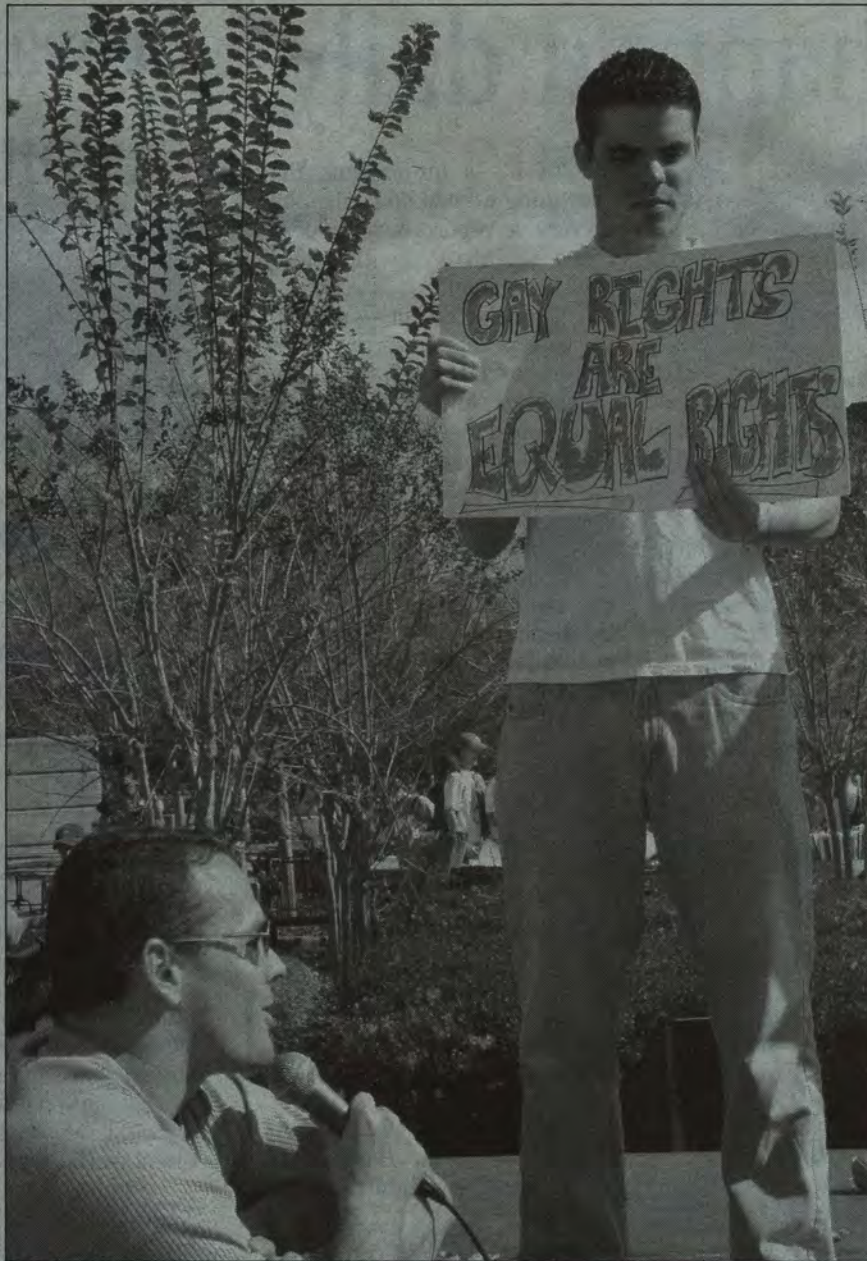
Administrators at Texas A&M University at College Station forced a group of students to cancel an off-campus party scheduled for Martin Luther King's Birthday after learning that the students planned to dress in gangsta-rap outfits and other racially demeaning costumes.

Students living in one of the campus residence halls had been planning a party called "Think Ghetto," which was to be held in the nearby city of Bryan on Monday. An anonymous letter tipped off university administrators about the party.

University officials expressed outrage that students would plan to do something so racially insensitive on the holiday honoring the slain civil-rights leader. Officials went door to door in Walton Hall, the residence hall where the party was being planned, hand delivering a letter condemning the party.

The anonymous letter to the administration alleged that the students planned to wear black-

PLEASE SEE *Poorer* ON 7



PHOTOS BY ADAM ROSCHE / CFF

RALLYING

Gay students gathered outside the Student Union Tuesday for a rally to gain support for equal rights on campus. Shannon Brody, freshman led a debate with Paul Davis, a campus administrator for the group Our Generation, on whether or not homosexuals deserve protection.

Registration viewed as discriminatory

FROM PAGE 1

employees to photocopy all the items in his wallet, including his driver's license and credit cards. He also had to answer an hour's worth of questions posed to him by an INS employee—questions that dealt with his political ideologies, as well as the political ideologies of his family and friends.

"It's scary because they are looking at a computer screen," he said. "You don't know what they already know about you."

He added: "Now, anything I do can be tracked by the government."

He denounced the legitimacy of including his country on this list, saying, "We don't have terrorism in Morocco."

Nonetheless, the federal government included Laassel's homeland in a list that also includes Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Egypt, Eritrea, Indonesia, Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Kuwait, North Korea, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

While Laassel now has qualms about the process, and doubts it will work because he does not foresee terrorists going to INS to register, he concedes that he initially thought it might be effective.

"At first I had mixed feelings," he said. "I thought maybe they had to do this."

"But it's really the same as what [the Germans] did to the Jews," he added.

Civil rights groups, such as the American Civil Liberties Union and the Arab American Anti-Discrimination Committee, agree. They have criticized the process, calling it discriminatory and saying it will attach unnecessary stigmas to an exclusive group of people.

However, some UCF students applaud this measure. Junior political science and history major Andrew Dilliner believes the registration will lead to "terror plots being foiled."

"I believe that if the measures are carried out properly and effectively," he said, "terror attacks have a better chance at being avoided."

Dilliner, however, said he sympathizes with those who have to register, but believes that if they have nothing to hide, they should have nothing to worry about. He also said that the INS registration helps him feel more at ease about the U.S. deterring another terrorist attack.

"I do feel a little safer with the registration process because the government has now started to do something about stopping terrorism," Dilliner said.

Senior political science major Jessica Isola disagreed. She called the INS registration process "prejudiced and unconstitutional."

"When Timothy McVeigh committed the terrorist attack in Oklahoma," Isola said, "the government didn't start screening every Christian Caucasian male in this country."

Despite both the criticisms and the appreciation of this new anti-terrorist measure, the INS registration process continues for many people, whether they agree with its validity or not.

"It's not fair; but what can you do?" Laassel said. "You have to do it."

Homeland security

The new Homeland Security Bill gives federal bureaus a considerable and unprecedented license to pry, especially where the Internet is concerned. In accordance with the new bill, the government will have the right to collect and monitor any data that individuals may have otherwise thought to be private, including e-mails. Passed underneath the guise of an anti-terrorist preventative measure, it has strong implications concerning the privacy of future communications for Americans.

How do UCF students feel about the new standard for Internet privacy violations?



"If you have nothing to hide then you should have nothing to worry about. Call me naive but I trust the government."

—ALEX POWELL, SOPHOMORE



"If you want to know the truth about what someone's doing, then you have to shed light on that subject. If everybody knows what everybody's doing, then people will know more and it will help."

—CRAIG BOISSEAU, SENIOR



"I think it's a really dangerous idea that could probably invade the privacy of people that are law-abiding. You trust the government with your lives and for them to hold freedom for you, but at the same time it should trust the people that are citizens already. [The bill] uses preventive measure with very little to account for checks and balances."

—SHAWN GOLDBERG, JUNIOR



"As far as the war goes, it's definitely the more important of the battles, but there's going to be more damage by a serious breach of the Constitution than any terrorist can ever plan. The NSA and CIA are supposed to do foreign intelligence and merging them into this huge thing effectively creates Big Brother. We have to be careful not to trade in liberty for security."

—T.J. CARVAHIO, JUNIOR

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Punk isn't dead, it moved to the class

MIKE BLAKELY
STAFF WRITER

Since the second week of January, some of the most famous angst-driven, three-chord ballads ever recorded have been heard blaring from a trailer behind the Classroom 1 Building. In fact, the sounds are so loud that neighboring classes occasionally have to ask them to keep the volume down.

This is education?

It is if the teacher is Eugene Montague, the man behind the novel first-time offering in the UCF Music Department, a course titled Punk in the History and Practice of Rock Music.

Montague and his students meet twice a week to study bands such as the Ramones, the Sex Pistols, the Germs and the impact that these and other punk bands have had on contemporary culture.

Like other students, those in Montague's class must write papers, and there are in-class quizzes that require them to identify certain songs. But unlike most other classes, this one also sends its students out to visit "hole-in-the-wall" clubs around town and hear some really loud bands perform.

Those students already have defined the punk sound — simplistic, two- or three-chord songs with raw vocals, junior Jenny Baxter, 22, said.

Yet, there is much more to it. The word "punk" can be applied to just about anything, Montague said.

"It is very hard to draw boundaries," he added.

"As a department, we are looking for ways to broaden ourselves in the university. We want to provide opportunities for all students to engage in diverse styles of music."

—EUGENE MONTAGUE
Professor of Punk in the
History and Practice of Rock Music

In appearance, Montague himself proves the stereotypical definition wrong. His clothes smell nice. His hair shines. His voice — a Dublin accent that conveys an intellectual authority — sounds better-suited for a voiceover in a his-

PLEASE SEE *Class* ON 6



DAVE KENNEDY / CFF

Shayne Calahan and Ari Gardner listen to the Sex Pistols during a listening quiz in Dr. Eugene Montague's Punk in the History and Practice of Rock Music class. Neighboring classes have complained of the noise.

POLICE BEAT

Pot dealer passes out, offers signed confession

CARLY MORRIS
STAFF WRITER

Mark Anthony Wynder, 20, was arrested on charges of possession of cannabis with intent to sell on Jan. 11. Officer Erik Lashinsky responded to a call at Pegasus Landing in reference to possible drug use.

Upon his arrival, he met with the resident advisor, Darren Evan, who said someone had called the front office and reported smelling marijuana. Lashinsky went to the room and knocked on the door, covering the peephole while he knocked. When the door opened, Lashinsky was given permission to enter the apartment.

Once inside, he saw three burnt marijuana cigarettes, a scale and individual bags with marijuana inside. During the search, Wynder fainted and an

ambulance came. After he awakened and was examined for injuries, Wynder gave a signed statement claiming the marijuana belonged to him.

Littering leads to marijuana mess

Melissa Anderson, 20, was arrested on charges of possession of cannabis on Jan. 11. Officer Paul White noticed people throwing beer cans from a balcony at Pegasus Pointe. White asked for the residents to come down and clean up the mess. When Anderson came down, White asked for her identification. When she opened her purse, White saw a bag of marijuana. Anderson was arrested following a field test of the marijuana.

Police reporter Carly Morris can be reached at cmorris@ucffuture.com

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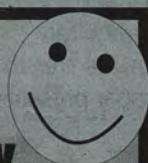
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DAVE KENNEDY / CFF

Shayne Calahan listens to Dr. Montague as he lectures on the history of punk rock. Calahan enjoys the class because she feels she can speak intelligently of punk music.

Class beats general music studies

FROM PAGE 5

torical documentary than it does for a discussion about Green Day.

But he knows his stuff. In his doctoral dissertation Montague compared French dance music to the Sex Pistols, although he listens to a variety of genres and believes all styles of music have their benefits. Acts such as Bach, 1960s garage bands or whatever other sounds on the radio catch his ear all get a turn on his stereo.

"I'm a facilitator pointing [students] to information," he said. "They are learning from each other and about how music functions in life and the meanings it can have."

"As a department, we are looking for ways to broaden ourselves in the university. We want to provide opportunities for all students to engage in diverse styles of music."

Sophomore Shayne Calahan, 20, likes the course because her classmates can discuss punk music more intelligently than people in the punk community, she said.

In the clubs, people may overhear opinions from those who consider themselves to be punk, but all they can say is, "well, this sucks because..." or "punk is dead because..." she said. But in class, people not only voice their opinion and but also support it because the readings provide them with the sources to back it up, she said.

Added Baxter: "One of the things we have tried to find out is if punk attitude is something new or just another term for something that has always been around."

For example, the class contemplated whether Michael Jackson demonstrated a punk attitude when he dangled his child over a balcony or if Mariah Carey's breakdown was a "punk thing" to do.

In addition to determining celebrities' rankings on the punk scale, students pick up on the significance of countercultures and social movements. Montague said he hopes his students gain a greater understanding of punk history and the impact it has on today's culture.

Arguing over whether punk is dead or not has failed to come up in class so far. But Montague assumes the debate will come.

"Most people writing about punk, write about it dying in 1979," he said.

It is ironic that college students can now earn credit for studying music that could have had them kicked out of school 20 years ago, Montague said. But that does not mean punk music has died, he added.

"Punk music is not dead because it is being absorbed into the established system," he said. "If it ever had the image of not being for intellectuals, it has certainly lost it now."

The established system at UCF has welcomed its rowdy new edition. The music department has been accommodating in helping to get the class started, Montague said.

"Everyone in the department can see the importance," he said. "No one is taking the stance that this is a bad thing to be doing. It shows a change in what college stands for. I like to think it acknowledges that a lot of different subjects are worth studying."

Students study Middle Earth

Class analyzes J.R.R. Tolkien

STEPHEN HIRST
STAFF WRITER

Imagine a course in which the curriculum includes the mandatory study and discussion of the Fellowship of the Ring's journey from the elven city of Rivendell to the dwarven Mines of Moria and essay topics range from "The Character of Gollum: A Study in Alienation and the Issue of Free Will," to "Tolkien and Modernism: The Meaning of the Ring."

No, it isn't a "Dungeons and Dragons" geek's wet dream, it's an actual UCF literature class and it counts for a full three credit hours. Welcome to Lord of the Rings 101, or as it is officially titled, "Tolkien and Fantasy Literature," taught by Dr. Jerome Donnelly.

During the past twenty years, Donnelly (who bears a more than slight resemblance to Ian Holm, the actor playing Bilbo Baggins in "The Fellowship of the Ring") has taught the class at UCF only three or four times.

The main goal that the professor has for all of his students is "the realization of the literary triumph that 'The Hobbit' and 'The Lord of the Rings' trilogy represent."

Though Donnelly is basically preaching to the choir (the class largely consists of longtime "Rings" fans), he is clearly excited to spread an appreciation of Tolkien's works to students who may never have

encountered it before, as well as shed new light on issues for those already familiar with the author.

"Like all literature, fantasy is too important to be left to a specialized audience," Donnelly said.

The course revolves around the fantasy genre's biggest name, J.R.R. Tolkien, and his body of poetry, novels and critical essays. The class also learns of the author's life story, from his early days as a soldier in WWI, to his years at Oxford and his subsequent publishing success.

While the course emphasizes Tolkien's hobbit-related stories, course reading also includes one of Tolkien's lesser-known works, a translation of "Sir Gawain and the Green Knight," and the ancient and anonymous poem "Beowulf," considered a seminal fantasy influence.

While some students in the class enjoy the fantasy genre, many of them have not read what most literary scholars consider the cornerstone of modern fantasy: Tolkien's trilogy.

Senior literature major Melissa Ringfield, 22, was one of them until recently.

"I've always read a ton of fantasy, but never 'The Lord of the Rings.' It wasn't until recently I realized that all these authors I had been reading owed so much to Tolkien," Ringfield said.

But most students have several reasons for opting to gain a better understanding of the author Ringfield calls "the father of fantasy."

"It's just nice to get away from the literary canon," Ringfield said. "Everyone has to read Chaucer, Shakespeare...I wanted to study

someone a little different."

Though Ringfield read "The Hobbit" in her childhood, she never got around to reading Tolkien's most widely recognized books until "The Fellowship of the Ring" stormed the box office.

"The new movies also played a part in making me want to read the 'Rings' trilogy," Ringfield said.

Donnelly said this semester's class is larger than any in the past, and believes this is due partly to the popularity of the current movies based on Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings" trilogy. So what does he think of Hollywood's take on the fantasy masterpiece?

"To anyone who has been reading the books since childhood, since the 1940's, any movie is going to be at least a little disappointing," Donnelly said. With that said, Donnelly still admits to enjoying the movies, but would have liked to see a few things done differently.

"For one thing, I think the hobbits appeared as too fresh-faced and cutesy," Donnelly pointed out. "They looked a little too 'Disney' for my taste."

A large portion of the class focuses on debunking myths about fantasy literature in general terms and J.R.R. Tolkien in particular. Donnelly has very specific goals for his students when it comes to the author.

"Probably the biggest misconception about Tolkien is that he is some kind of a throwback to a different age or mentality," said Donnelly. "The reality is that he is a highly sophisticated writer with real applications to modern issues."

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Poorer parents are unaware of aid

FROM PAGE 3

face and that the party had been a tradition for several years.

When administrators confronted the students planning the party, the students denied being racist but apologized for the party and canceled it.

The university was investigating how much residence-hall advisers knew about the party and whether leaders of any student groups had helped to plan it. After the inquiry is complete, the university might take disciplinary action.

Low-income families need student aid information

Low-income families, who need the most information about student aid, have the least information about how to pay for college, according to a report released Monday by the Sallie Mae Fund.

The report is based on a national poll of parents with children who are 18 to 24 years of age.

The poll found that among those families earning less than \$50,000 a year, 60 percent said that they needed more information about how to pay for college. Only 37 percent of those earning at least \$75,000 a year had the same view. And of families with incomes under \$25,000, 45 percent of parents said they had "no idea" how they could pay for college for their children.

The survey found a gap in the ages at which children start to learn about financial aid. The average age in families with annual incomes over \$75,000 was 14, while the average age for families with annual incomes under \$25,000 was 16.

A racial gap also exists on information about student aid. The poll found that while 44 percent of white parents said that they did not have enough information about paying for college, 66 percent of black parents and 62 percent of Hispanic parents felt that way.

The Sallie Mae Fund is the charitable arm of Sallie Mae, the largest financier of federal student loans.

—COMPILED BY KRISTA ZILIZI

Current SGA trio will remain until May 8

FROM PAGE 1

said Student Body Vice President Brian Kirlaw. "Whether or not public opinion says it's in violation, we have to follow what the Judicial Council says."

Senators on both sides of the argument agreed that the Judicial Council's

ruling is the end of the matter.

"It's not my responsibility as a student legislator to interpret the constitution. The interpretation of the constitution falls to the judicial branch," said Sen. Marcus Gould, who had opposed the change in the statute that eliminated the third position.

Currently, the student body vice president chairs the Senate, breaks tie votes and is first in presidential succession. The executive vice president oversees cabinet members. Three attempts in two previous Senates to create one vice president's position had failed.

Nation briefs

Verizon suffers legal setback in online piracy case

The decision, which Verizon plans to appeal, is a boon not only to major record labels, but also to Hollywood studios, book publishers, video game developers and other copyright holders whose works are copied freely online.

U.S. District Judge John D. Bates in Washington ruled that a copyright holder can force an Internet service provider to disclose the names of customers accused of piracy without having to file individual lawsuits against alleged violators.

If upheld, Bates' ruling will make it easier for the RIAA to take its fight against piracy directly to the heaviest users of online file-sharing networks, such as Kazaa and Morpheus.

But critics of the decision said it gives people accused of copyright infringement less legal protection than those accused of other crimes.

The case comes at a critical juncture for the music industry, which is changing its legal strategy to turn up the heat on consumers who copy music online.

The labels want to send a clear, chilling message directly to consumers that unauthorized copying is illegal. In particular, they're focusing on the people who

make large amounts of music available for others through an online network.

Meal sizes have increased dramatically, study finds

Confirming a gastronomical trend that nutritionists have long suspected, a new study demonstrates that food portion sizes have grown dramatically — a finding that may help to explain the growing obesity levels in the United States.

The study, covering the years 1977 to 1996, found that the average hamburger was 23 percent larger; an order of fries was 16 percent bigger and the size of a soft drink had jumped 50 percent. And that was true whether you ate in a fast-food joint, in a classy restaurant or in your own kitchen.

Although the researchers could not establish a direct link between increased portion sizes and weight gain, experts say the results provide powerful insight into why the incidence of obesity has more than doubled since 1971, climbing from 14.5 percent of the population to 30.9 percent.

U.S. is ready to ship smallpox vaccines to 4 states

Federal health officials began shipments Wednesday of smallpox vaccine doses to four states, identified Tuesday only as those ready to start inoculations.

All told, the administration hopes 500,000 health care workers will volunteer for vaccinations. The program expands in the summer to a second phase, in which 10 million volunteers from the ranks of firefighters, police officers and emergency workers will be immunized.

Inoculations can begin as early as Friday, the day the federal Homeland Security Act goes into effect. A provision in the measure protects from liability all involved vaccine manufacturers, the federal government and those who administer the vaccinations. Negligence, however, is not covered.

President Bush last month asked that health care workers volunteer to be vaccinated against smallpox to provide a large group of protected clinicians and first-responders in the event of a bioterror attack. A similar vaccination program has already begun with inoculations of members of armed forces.

Federal health officials expect the vaccination program to run smoothly but they do not expect it to be problem-free. The live-virus vaccine carries more risks than modern vaccines and in the past was known to cause death in 1 to 2 out of every 1 million people inoculated.

—COMPILED BY KRISTA ZILIZI

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OUR STANCE:

Even more growing pains to come

According to its Master Plan, UCF wants to have 48,000 students by 2010. The university already has too many students for its infrastructure. How does it plan to accommodate nearly 10,000 more students without compromising the surrounding environment?

To add that many more students, UCF will have to expand and build, likely on undeveloped land it now owns. The construction and development necessary to hold 48,000 students will take a serious toll on the environment.

The expansion and growth envisioned in the Master Plan seems unrealistic and irrational given the university's ongoing problems. UCF already lacks professors and classrooms to accommodate the current student population. The university has serious traffic problems on campus, and the roads that lead to UCF have too many vehicles on them now.

Even if UCF can expand its roads and add more roads to handle the additional traffic that would accompany the extra students on campus, UCF's Board of Trustees must realize that the university does not exist in a vacuum. The growth that UCF wants would cause traffic nightmares for the surrounding area. Traffic on Alafaya Trail and University Boulevard is

already atrocious.

Unless UCF plans to add more access roads leading into the campus, the area around UCF cannot afford the added traffic that 10,000 more students would bring.

Then there's the problem of a shortage of professors. As things stand now, UCF does not have enough professors to teach its students. If UCF cannot find or afford enough professors now, how does it plan find the professors needed to teach those extra students?

The Board of Trustees wants to build UCF into a nationally recognized university, which is certainly honorable, but before it proceeds with its plans to grow the university to its projected goal of 48,000 students, it must consider the costs and feasibility of that growth.

UCF does not need to rush into the growth that the Master Plan prescribes. The Board of Trustees should slow down its growth and realize that UCF is still relatively young. Rome was not built in a day, and UCF should not be either.

It makes little sense for UCF to grow so quickly when it has experienced so many growth problems in recent years. Until UCF catches up to its recent growth, it should not try to grow much more. UCF does not need to add 10,000 students by 2010.

OUR STANCE:

In times of war, impoverished ignored

Besides the obvious reasons against war with Iraq, i.e., war is bad and the global community does not support it, there are the financial and humanitarian reasons.

Estimated costs of a war with Iraq range from \$9 billion to \$100 billion – that's right, billion. At a time when the U.S. economy is mired in a recession, and companies in various industries lay off thousands of American workers, that money should go toward rejuvenating the economy and providing jobs.

It makes no sense to spend so much money on an unnecessary war overseas when the economy here needs a serious boost.

As the U.S. government focuses all this attention on the self-created crisis with Iraq, it neglects and outright ignores an impending humanitarian tragedy on the forgotten continent of Africa. In a statement issued Tuesday, the United Nations World Food Program said that 11 million people there suffer from severe starvation.

Thousands of people die daily in the horrible conditions that exist on the continent. Famine has destroyed the agriculture upon which millions of Africans depend for survival, and drought has created devastating water shortages. Additionally, a lack of education and medical care has allowed diseases like

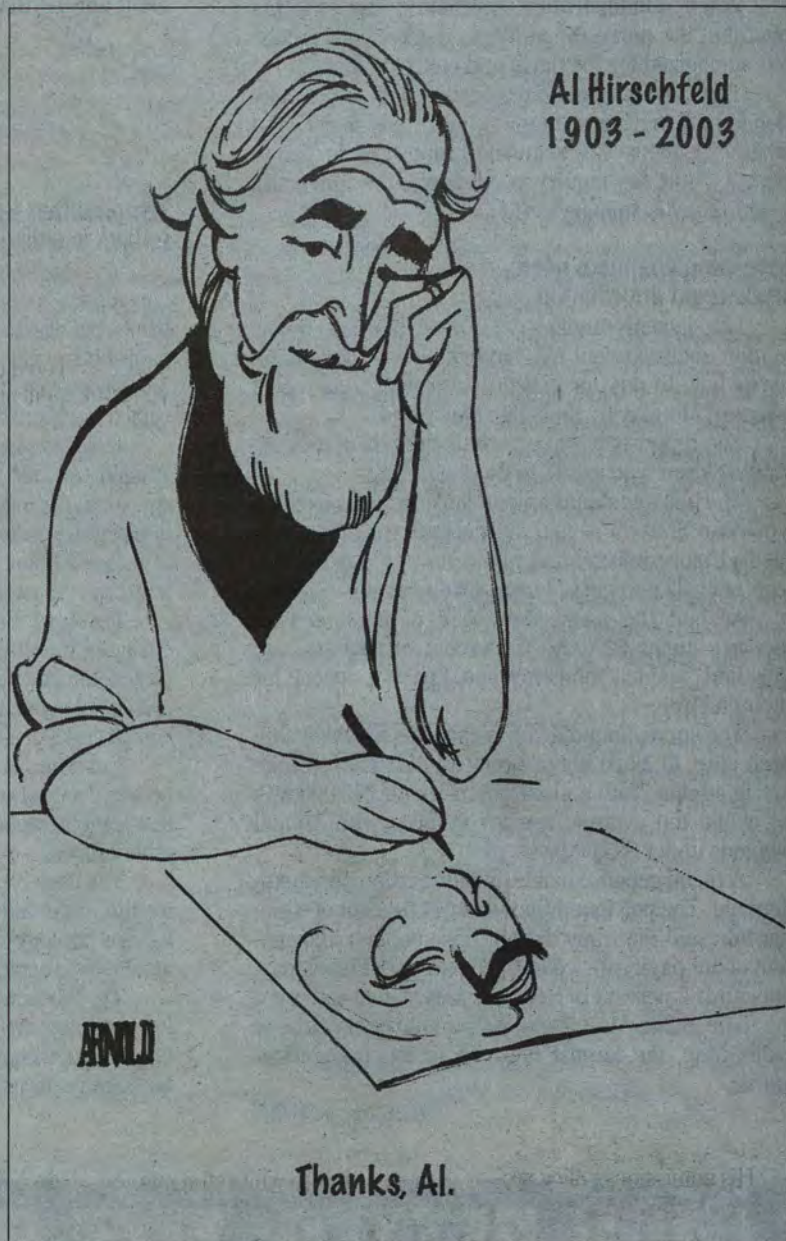
AIDS, pneumonia and tuberculosis to ravage African countries.

For a small fraction of the cost of a war with Iraq, the U.S. could save millions of lives, and save a continent that teeters on the edge of destruction. A serious American commitment – at least millions, if not tens of millions of dollars or more – to Africa could avert this horrible tragedy.

The U.S. should invest in Africa on many fronts. It should send money and food to alleviate the starvation that threatens to kill millions. The U.S. should send medicine and medical professionals to try to slow down the spread of diseases. It should send teachers to educate the people of Africa. It should build up the infrastructure of Africa to create conditions for sustainable growth.

If the U.S. dedicated itself to helping Africa, instead of waging an unpopular war against Iraq, such a move would go a long way toward improving America's image around the world. Other countries would perceive the U.S. less as an imperialistic bully and more as a humane and helpful neighbor.

On top of helping its image, resolving the crisis with Iraq diplomatically would save the U.S. billions of dollars – money that it could spend to get the U.S. economy out of the gutter.



Al Hirschfeld
1903 - 2003

Letters to the Editor

Views expressed here are not necessarily those of The FutureFL

Washington war protest misguided activism

I am writing in response to the opinion column "Where is campus activism?" published Jan. 21.

I am not against activism as such but am against misguided activism. A perfect example of misguided activism is the anti-war protests. The United States has been appeasing Islamic terrorists and the dictatorships that support them for over 50 years.

This began with allowing Middle Eastern thugs to nationalize (read: steal) the oil in the region from its rightful owners – private western businessmen who discovered and developed the oil.

These Fundamentalist Muslims, realizing that the United States would not stand up for the rights of its citizens, committed a series of terrorist attacks on both American civilians and military personnel, climaxing on Sept. 11.

After Sept. 11, no rational individual can think that appeasing our enemies can lead to anything but more American bloodshed.

These terrorists hate America because the philosophic principals that America represents are the exact opposite of those the terrorists believe in. America represents freedom, achievement, and happiness on earth. Their philosophy stands for tyranny, self-sacrifice, and misery on earth.

Just as there was no reason to appease Hitler, today there is no reason to appease dictatorships and terrorists that want nothing more than our destruction.

—MATTHEW S. MIKLAUTSCH
President, Objectivist Club at UCF

War with Iraq could save more than oil industry

I would like to comment on the 19 UCF students that went to protest the possible war in Iraq, "A nation in protest," by Jason Irsay published Jan. 21.

Imagine if those 19 UCF students who protested were all shot. Imagine if the Bush administration bombed their hometowns with chemical weapons that caused their loved ones to slowly die as their insides liquefied.

Finally imagine what would happen if countries like France and Russia, not willing to lose their billion dollar oil contracts with the Bush administration, turned their backs under the guise of national sover-

eignty. Saddam has gassed Iraqi citizens, burned their villages and homes, and has murdered countless others.

He has invaded two countries: Iran and Kuwait. During his occupation of Kuwait, he murdered innocent people there too. Whether or not Bush just wants Iraq's oil isn't the question. The question is when will America step up and end the Holocaust that is occurring in Iraq and oust the Hitler there named Saddam Hussein?

—ANTHONY ELSWICK

Students contribute to anti-American propaganda

Jason Irsay writes very nicely in support of the "peace" demonstrations in his article "A nation in protest" published Jan. 21. But the "nation" is not in protest, and I would hope that inexperienced students, like Jason, would understand they are simply contributing to anti-American propaganda.

Listen students, go back and study what happened with Abyssinia (now Ethiopia) and the League of Nations. Then go back and study what Winston

Churchill was saying in England while Hitler was preparing for the war that killed 30 million people that could have been prevented with strength and firmness. At that time the student population of Oxford University took the "Oxford Oath" never to fight. Remember the 30 million who died because of this pacifist weakness.

—COLIN RICHARDSON

"In three words I can sum up everything
I've learned about life: it goes on."

—ROBERT FROST

Payback, not payoff, needed

INSIPID THOUGHTS



ADAM SHIVER
STAFF WRITER

"Even though progress has been made, there's more to do," said President George W. Bush Monday speaking on the state of racial relations in the United States.

Paying tribute to Martin Luther King, Bush spoke at the First Baptist Church of Glenarden in Landover, Maryland. Bush's gesture to honor civil rights leader Dr. King was ironic in light of the statements he made that decried affirmative action programs, calling them discriminatory to non-minorities.

Specifically Bush is condemning the University of Michigan's race-conscious policies currently in place at the university, saying the guidelines are not fair to white students.

He isn't alone in ignoring the idea that racial disadvantages still exist. His brother, Jeb Bush, the governor of Florida, feels his One Florida plan has miraculously eliminated racial disadvantages in a matter of four years — and Jeb claims he has done it without giving preferential treatment to anyone.

His admissions policy program, that bases admissions strictly on grades and not racial preferences, is something Jeb says has effectively maintained

racial diversity in college classrooms without giving minorities an unfair advantage.

And while such programs might sound good to the president and his brother, it spits in the face of minorities a people that have suffered from this country's inception. In Florida, while minority admissions grew by a very insignificant amount at some, but not all universities, the minority student population at most Florida universities is still just that — minor.

At UCF African American enrollment for freshmen rose from 371 in 1999 to 490 in 2002, and Hispanic enrollment among freshmen rose from 467 in 1999 to 684. Most universities mirrored UCF with small increases in minority enrollment. In fact at the University of Florida, African American enrollment among freshmen dipped from 623 in 1999 to 460 in 2001, but rose again in 2002 to 659.

Nationally, black students receive only 10 percent of the graduate degrees awarded each year, while Hispanic students earn 7.7 percent and Asian students earn 4.5 percent. In contrast, white students receive a whopping 76.7 percent of college degrees awarded each year.

Likewise, a large percentage of African Americans and Hispanics still continue to work as cheap labor instead of pursuing a college education — evidence that a college education isn't a reality for many minorities even today because the opportunity is not as readily available to them as it is to white students.

And racial preferences and affirmative action programs to bolster minorities into higher society are still fairly new. Not

until the civil rights movements of the mid to late 20th century did white Americans even take notice that minorities didn't have the same opportunities and that something needed to change.

Many reparations still have to be made — reparations that will help put minorities on equal ground with white students. This can only be achieved through race-conscious policies.

It seems that what Bush and his cohorts are really after is finding a way to keep blacks and other minorities out of the mainstream colleges because the best middle ground solution that he could come up with to improve educational opportunities for minority students is a promise to grant more money to predominantly black and Hispanic-serving universities. This won't solve racial disadvantage, nor will it promote racial diversity. That's not payback — it's a payoff.

Thankfully for the first time since he took his current position under President Bush, Colin Powell has finally spoken up and taken a stance that I agree with. Powell wholeheartedly disagrees with the policies of George and Jeb and realizes that minorities continue to get the short end of the stick when it comes to post-secondary education.

Minorities are in desperate need of programs such as those at the University of Michigan, and if the president follows through and overturns Michigan's affirmative action policy, he will undoubtedly isolate minority voters and reverse the progress minorities are only starting to achieve.

Columnist Adam Shiver can be reached at adam@ucffuture.com

The stoned cold sober facts

STEPHEN HIRST STAFF WRITER

We've all seen them dozens of times by now — The Partnership for a Drug-free America's bold new line of anti-drug advertisements, featuring the running slogan, "Marijuana: harmless?"

In one segment, two stoned teens in a fast food drive-through become distracted and run over a little girl on her bike. In another, the spot comes to a close with a young girl being taken advantage of at a party by a fellow reveler.

And as any sane person knows, marijuana smokers account are responsible for plenty of fatal shootings as depicted in the commercial where a kid carelessly shoots his friend while they share a bong.

So do these depictions accurately reflect the state of mind of the typical pot smoker? To find out, let's play a little game called — "Name That Intoxicating Substance."

Mystery intoxicant number one can make the user violent, unreasonable and sexually aggressive to a dangerous degree. Those who abuse it often feel overconfident or indestructible and often lead to fatalities on American streets every day.

Overdosing can cause profuse vomiting, severe headaches and nausea, and in its most advanced form, death. Its comparatively sophisticated develop-

ment process makes it difficult to manufacture on a large scale without government approval, and it is easily taxed.

Mystery intoxicant number two makes the user lazy, easily amused and leaves a person with a temporary feeling of euphoria. There is zero possibility of any hangover or overdose. Those who use this substance generally order out for Domino's Pizza and Chinese food.

The substance is also extremely easy to cultivate for almost anyone who wants to bother and try and equally difficult for the government to keep track of or to tax effectively.

Now, one of these controlled substances is smeared daily in a nationwide advertising campaign designed to reduce its appeal, paid for by the U.S. taxpayer. The other is relentlessly marketed by its most popular representatives during halftime of the most popular televised sporting event on the planet. Can you guess which one is which?

A small disclaimer — my goal here isn't to suggest the complete safety or benevolence of marijuana. Pot is admittedly a psychologically addictive psychotropic substance. To deny the potential for abuse that it contains is either naive or a case of denial.

While lazy, Funions-munching potheads on a couch aren't nearly as threatening an image as violent, barfing alcoholics behind the wheel, marijuana can

and does ruin lives. A negligent father who ignores his family and devotes all his time and energy to getting high is a serious drain on society, even while posing far less a threat than a drunk driver.

It's glaringly hypocritical to condemn one habit while blindly accepting another that is likely a far greater menace, simply because one happens to be more manageable or profitable.

Perhaps the most outrageous of the current advertisements centers on the myth that people who buy drugs, including marijuana, are funding terrorists. The ad leads off featuring a series of people with guilt-ridden faces confessing to the crimes they helped support, including such grisly exploits as killing a judge.

The spot ends with the cryptic message, "If you buy drugs, you could be supporting terrorists." It's a shameless guilt-trip designed to tug at the viewers' heart strings for victims of the attacks of Sept. 11 — something the average Cheech has absolutely nothing to do with.

While I was settling a tab at Wackadoo's last week, this same commercial was airing. As I left the bar, one skeptical patron muttered something that really put things in perspective — something to the effect of, "Did they say if we buy drugs? Strange, guess they meant to say 'gasoline.'"

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FRESH SALADS AND SUCH



Aiming at a conference championship

Knights look to pick up where they left off

MATT BETHON
STAFF WRITER

After an inaugural 2002 season that surpassed even her expectations, Coach Renee Luers-Gillispie's Golden Knights softball team is aiming to take home the Atlantic Sun Conference title in 2003.

Luers-Gillispie leads the Golden Knights softball program into its second year of existence in 2003, and in her first year she carried the program to unparalleled success. The Knights finished with a 46-19 record, and at one point posted a 21-game winning streak. The team defeated 10th-ranked Florida Atlantic, and also posted victories over much more established programs like Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee. The Knights made it all the way to the semifinals of the Atlantic Sun Conference Tournament and finished the year third in the conference.

"46-19 is a huge record to have in your first season, and it passed all my expectations," Luers-Gillispie said.

Prior to her stint at UCF, Luers-Gillispie was no stranger to winning. She spent four years building the Texas Tech program and led the team to Top-25 finishes in 1998 and 1999. In addition to her four years at Texas Tech, Luers-Gillispie rebuilt programs at Bradley University and Joliet Junior College, and in 1994 her Bradley team posted the fifth best winning percentage in the nation.

Luers-Gillispie said that the team is focused on getting to the NCAA Regional Tournament this year, and in order to do that they are going to have to win the A-Sun Tournament. The team also needs to bolster its RPI rating (Ratings Percentage Index), which measures a team's strength of schedule, and how that team performs against that schedule. A

PLEASE SEE *Gators* ON 12

ILLUSTRATION BY ADAM SHIVER / CFF



ADAM ROSCHE / CFF

The A-Sun coaches picked UCF's lone senior, pitcher Dottie Cupp, as the preseason player of the year.

Women's tennis team looks for national attention

SADIE SHAM
STAFF WRITER

The 2003 women's tennis team has something to prove. Following a tough schedule last year in which the Knights played 10 nationally ranked teams, they never appeared in the rankings. However, this year they are poised and ready to take on the challenge.

"The rankings are important because they help solidify our spot to be able to go out and recruit better and better players," Coach Patricia Allison said.

Although they lost Atlantic Sun Player of the Year Emmanuelle Sauze, Allison believes other players will rise to fill her spot.

"Obviously it hurts the team when you lose such a successful player in the A-Sun last year as Sauze, but the depth on the team is so incredible this year that any one of our girls can step up and play number one," Allison said.

Senior Marieke Gunawan, and juniors Anna Westin, and Julie Pecastaing are all capable of stepping up and filling in the No. 1 spot, according to Allison. In 2001-02, Gunawan went 16-13 overall in the singles division and has been ranked 400th nationally, while Pecastaing went 21-7. Westin saw playing time at the No. 1 spot in doubles, while going 7-7 in the number two spot in singles.

"One player isn't going to make or break your team. It's depth that's important and how you step up," Allison said. "We will probably alternate Gunawan and Westin at the 1-2 and use Pecastaing at the number three spot."

Following another successful season, in which the Knights won their fifth Atlantic Sun Championship, Allison still sees room for improvement. Last season, the team struggled in the doubles category, posting a 28-49 record.

"I think we now have a chance to have a team ranked nationally in the doubles," Allison said.

With the power-punch of Gunawan and Pecastaing, they might have a chance to make that happen. They will also be solid in the No. 2 spot in doubles with experienced junior Anna Westin and freshman Pamela Fernandez.

PLEASE SEE *Season* ON 13



ADAM ROSCHE / CFF

Junior Anna Westin will partner with freshman Pamela Fernandez as UCF's No. 2 doubles team.

Last year's bitter end fuels men's tennis team

MATT BETHON
STAFF WRITER

The UCF men's tennis team opens up the 2003 season today against fifth-ranked Florida, and Coach Bobby Cashman's team is looking to bring home its first ever Atlantic Sun Conference Championship.

Cashman enters his fourth season as the head coach of the Golden Knights and has seen his team improve in each of his first three seasons, culminating with a 17-4 over-

all record and 7-1 A-Sun mark in 2002. The team ended the season second in the conference to Georgia State.

"I thought that we could have won the conference championship last year," Cashman said. "I think this year we're gonna be the team to beat. I look at last year as a blessing because it kept them hungry. Sometimes I think things happen too easy."

Cashman's team returns six letter-winners, including juniors Gabriel Strangberg and Catalin Bradu, both of whom earned A-

Sun All-Conference first-team honors in 2002. Strangberg finished the year 21-9, dropping only three matches in the spring season. Bradu finished with a 12-7 record.

"I think heading the pack will be those two juniors," Cashman said. "Also, Augusto Sanabria, our captain, does a good job in doubles. He's a tough out."

UCF also has three talented newcomers to the team. In September, the three all won

PLEASE SEE *Ultimate* ON 12

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Newcomers expected to contribute immediately

SADIE SHAM
STAFF WRITER

In its inaugural season, the UCF softball team earned a 44-17 record, had a 21-game winning streak and finished third in the Atlantic Sun Conference. This season, they hope to go even farther. With the loss of nine lettermen and most of the infield came an influx of talented newcomers. They are Jenna Wansa, Taylor Sawyer, Jennifer Whitley, Kaycee Clark and Cristina Villoldo.

"I believe we have better talent than we did last year," Coach Renee Luers-Gillispie said. "We have more maturity and experience in the positions than we did in the previous season."

As the only freshman Luers-Gillispie signed, high school standout Wansa will start at second base. She was a four-year letter-winner at Seabreeze High School and is a four-time all-area and all-state team selection. She was named the *Orlando Sentinel's* Player of the Year as a senior.

"She's a great athlete," Luers-Gillispie said. "We were really lucky to get her. She could have gone anywhere, but she committed to UCF. And what a stick."

Sawyer is a junior who came from Sierra College in California. A left-handed pitcher, Sawyer had an 18-5-1 record and a 0.91 ERA in 142.33 innings pitched.

"She has a good mix of pitches and does really well with throwing ground-out pitches," Luers-Gillispie said.

She also compiled a .385 batting average with 25 RBIs. She was named to the first-team All-Bay Valley Conference and was the Bay Valley Conference Pitcher of the Year. She earned all-state honors as a sophomore. She will alternate between pitcher and first base for the Golden



ADAM ROSCHE / CFF
Junior Kaycee Clark transferred from the University of Oklahoma where she competed in the College World Series.

Knights.

Whitley received recognition as a catcher from Tallahassee Community College. She was named 2002 Florida Community College Athletic Association (FCCAA) and All-Panhandle Conference Player of the Year. In 111 career games at TCC, she had a .355 batting average with 17 doubles, eight home runs, 77 RBIs and 60 runs scored. She owns the school record for most RBIs in a season with 49.

"She has a very strong presence behind the plate and does a great job calling pitches. She's very good at reading batters and picking off runners at second base," Luers-Gillispie said.

Clark will provide this squad with invaluable experience. She comes to UCF from the University of Oklahoma, where she competed in the College World Series. She also earned Big XII All-Academic honors and traveled to Australia with the U.S. Junior National Team.

"She's a great leader and will definitely be an asset to us," Luers-Gillispie said.

Most of Clark's playing time will be spent at third base.

Villoldo comes to the team as a walk-on. She captained her softball team at Royal Palm Beach High School for four years. As a member of the Lady Gators tournament team, she placed third in the World Series. She will play third and outfield for UCF.

"She will be very valuable to us," Luers-Gillispie said. "She'll be able to get in there and get the job done when someone goes down. She's very versatile."

Luers-Gillispie said the transition these players have made adjusting to the team has been easier than the first season's players.

"Last season everyone was new. Now we have a base to build off of," Luers-Gillispie said. "They all have great personalities and want to work hard, so that makes it easier."

The Knights went on a retreat last weekend that consisted of team-building activities and a ROPES course. Before the trip, Luers-Gillispie said: "I don't even think they need it. I don't know how they're going to bond more than they already have. This is, by far, the best group of girls I've had in my 10 years of coaching."

Gators come to town for season-opener

FROM PAGE 10

better RPI rating gives a team a better shot of getting a bid to the NCAA Tournament if the team does not win its conference tournament.

"This year, the way we scheduled it was working to get to the NCAA Regionals," Luers-Gillispie said. "To do that we have to play tougher competition. We kind of upgraded our schedule a little bit. We didn't look at that so much last year because it was our first year."

Luers-Gillispie acknowledged that the biggest challenge for the Knights this year is keeping everyone healthy. The team is only carrying 13 players on their squad list right now, and Luers-Gillispie said most teams aim to carry 17.

"Everybody on the team right now has to play two positions," she said. "We'll work on that a lot this spring making sure that we've got back-up if anyone goes down."

The team brought in some key newcomers this year to help fill voids caused by the departures of key players from last year's team. Luers-Gillispie brought in Kaycee Clark, a junior transfer from the University of Oklahoma's World Series team from 2002.

"She brings with her a lot of maturity and knowledge on how to get to the next level," Luers-Gillispie said. "She's a great leader on the field and definitely an improvement for us

at third base."

Nikki Green, who split time at third base last year, will make the move to first base in 2003. Luers-Gillispie is excited about the opportunity of essentially have a third baseman playing first, a huge defensive upgrade. Two talented freshmen should also see time in the infield, Cristina Villoldo and Jenna Wansa. Wansa will start at second base, and she brings with her a lot more speed and agility than the team had last year. She was picked as the *Orlando Sentinel's* Player of the Year as a senior in high school.

"She can handle a lot of different things that we weren't able to handle last year," Luers-Gillispie said.

Jennifer Whitley, a junior transfer from Tallahassee Community College, will split time behind the plate with Lindsay Bush, last year's starter. Luers-Gillispie likes the maturity that Whitley has brought to the team. Rounding out the infield will be returning shortstop Stephanie Best, who hit a team-leading .347 last year and was also a member of the Atlantic Sun All-Conference team in 2002.

Center field will be solidified by NFCA All-Southeast Region First-Teamer Jania Shinhoster, who led the Golden Knights in RBIs, homeruns and total bases in 2002. She also posted a .338 batting average. Rachelle Schmidt will also see time in the outfield, and she posted a .325 batting

average and led the team in doubles. Sophomore Lindy Oakley, who showed her versatility last year by pitching in 15 games, will round out the outfield. Oakley also brings with her a solid bat, hitting .300 for the Golden Knights last season.

The pitching staff looks to be a key strength for the team in 2003, led by senior and 2002 NFCA All-Southeast Region Second-Teamer Dottie Cupp, who posted a 26-6 record and 1.11 ERA. Cupp, the lone senior, is coming off of offseason surgery.

"She's getting stronger every day," Luers-Gillispie said. "I think by the start of our season we'll be where we need to be with her; she's not 100 percent at this point."

Also returning to the staff will be Pysha Simmons, who finished 2002 with a 16-7 record and 2.85 ERA. Luers-Gillispie also brought in a left-handed pitcher from Sierra College in California, Taylor Sawyer.

"She's gonna bring a little bit different look being a lefty that's gonna help us out a lot," Luers-Gillispie said.

The Knights open 2003 with a doubleheader Jan. 25 against the University of Florida. Luers-Gillispie knows it's early in the season, and she is looking to limit the mistakes and hopefully earn at least a split with the Gators.

"If we don't split, but we have some good games and some good production from our players, then we'll know where we need to be," she said.



ADAM ROSCHE / CFF
Junior Gabriel Strangberg earned first-team all-conference honors last season.

Ultimate goal: First-ever A-Sun championship

FROM PAGE 10

titles at Florida State's Fall Classic. In the Singles C Draw, freshman Jacob Auerbach defeated fellow newcomer Rhett Rosen in the finals. And in the doubles draw, Rosen teamed up with freshman Ener Gursay to win the Doubles B bracket.

Rounding out the team will be sophomores Paul Ramy and Simon Jaeger, along with junior Antonio Sierra. Ramy posted a 13-6 record last year and earned a spot on the A-Sun All-Freshmen team.

"All these guys have worked really hard," Cashman said. "I think we're just a year older and more mature and it shows."

The team opens the spring season ranked No. 54 in the Omni Hotels Collegiate Tennis Rankings preseason poll. Cashman has a reputation of setting his teams up against some of the best quality in the nation, and 2003 will be no different. UCF opens up in Gainesville against fifth-ranked Florida, and the season includes a home date against No. 22 South Florida.

"We're ranked a little higher now so we play a lot of teams between 50 and 75, but they're still good," Cashman said. "We've got a few opportunities against Florida, Florida State and South Florida, and we have to take advantage when we have the opportunity."

Cashman admits that it is difficult to schedule high-ranked opponents, mainly because a loss against a middle of the pack team like UCF could potentially hurt their rankings. There are a lot of teams between 30 and 65 that are very close in ability.

"Those teams have a lot to lose," Cashman said. "We get a lot of respect but at the same time we also get teams that are like, 'We don't want to lose to an FAU, UCF or Georgia State so why play them?' Coaches that are ranked between 25 and 50 that I've known for a long time are like, 'We're at a point where you guys are good and we don't want to play you.'"

In the past it has been difficult to get local tennis fans out to matches. UCF doesn't yet have the notoriety of a big program, and Cashman says the program is still in the "infant stages." He says he looks forward to tapping into the community and giving free tennis clinics to kids.

"I think we could do a fan appreciation day, especially when we play big teams. We could do little things to promote that, to just get the fans out there," Cashman said.

After coming up just short against Georgia State in last year's A-Sun Tournament, UCF looks to be in prime shape to take home the title in 2003. Both Georgia State and FAU lost key players. Cashman believes Troy State is the sleeper team in the conference, and looks for them to upset some teams.

The team's performance in the University of Miami Spring Fling, held last weekend, showed that they are team of talent and poise. After stellar performances by Bradu and Sierra on the first day of the tournament against William & Mary, the team was swept by Clemson the following day. On the final day of the tournament, the team came out firing against the host and No. 42 ranked Miami team, winning six of 10 matches.

The Golden Knights look to show up big this year, and they have one main goal.

"To win a conference championship," Cashman said. "That's number one."

Pumped up Lyons leads Knights over Dolphins

UCF plays its next two games on road

TOM ALEXANDER
STAFF WRITER

The UCF men's basketball team continued to silence its preseason detractors Monday night, filleting the Jacksonville University Dolphins 72-48 in what was a matchup of the team picked to win the Atlantic Sun South division in the preseason polls (Jacksonville) and the team picked to finish second-to-last (UCF). The Golden Knights were led by a career-high 20-point performance from junior forward Dexter Lyons. Lyons also pulled down 10 rebounds, recording his third double-double of the season.

UCF came out of the locker room with guns ablaze, starting the game with a 12-0 run which lasted over four minutes. Jacksonville got on the board four minutes, five seconds into the contest with a three-pointer by James Daniels, but the Knights' defense would only come back harder midway through the first half, going on an 18-0 run and putting JU down 43-21 at halftime. During that run, Jacksonville didn't score for over nine minutes and only had 12 points with just over two minutes remaining in the first half.

After halftime the Knights didn't let up, beginning with a Dexter Lyons three-pointer right out of the break. Lyons would electrify the crowd of 1,148 later in the half with a breakaway dunk that brought UCF to a 58-30 lead. Lyons said after the game that the crowd, which sounded much bigger than it was, helps him play better basketball.

"Man, I love them guys. I absolutely love them. They get me going. When I'm down a little bit, when



BRETT HART / CFF

Junior Dexter Lyons registered his third double-double Monday, scoring a career-high 20 points and grabbing 10 rebounds.

I made a bad play, I just hear them over there shouting and it turns me on. I just go from there," Lyons said.

The Golden Knights have been drawing much larger crowds of late, and Coach Kirk Speraw said that not only has that increased turnout been instrumental to the team's 7-1 home record, but that he would love to see more students come out to the UCF Arena to see their team play.

"I think we've got an exciting team," Speraw said. "I think we've got a team that's showing an awful lot of heart and determination. This is a group that is easy to get behind, easy to cheer for. I don't know what numbers we have student-wise, but let's double it. Shoot, let's triple it."

The 12-6 Golden Knights play their next two games on the road against Jacksonville State and Georgia State, but they return home Jan. 30, to take on Belmont at 7:30 p.m.

King sparks UCF over Mercer

KRISTY SHONKA
STAFF WRITER

In Saturday's game against Troy State, the UCF women's basketball team came out flat and remained that way for most of the game. The result: a 67-56 loss. Well, that loss didn't sit too well with Coach Gail Striegler or the Golden Knights, and they made Mercer pay 78-59 Monday night at the UCF Arena.

"I think that they came out on Saturday, just thought it was going to be an easy win, and didn't come out prepared, didn't come out focused," Striegler said. "Sometimes when your back's against the wall you come out fighting a little bit harder and I think they realized their backs are against the wall."

The Knights jumped out to an early 15-5 lead before April Dyer converted a pair of free throws for the Bears' first points in almost four minutes to cut the lead to eight. The eight-point deficit was the smallest for Mercer the rest of the game. Another drought, this time two minutes, gave UCF a 24-10 lead and the Knights took a 37-23 lead into the lock-

er room.

The Bears never got closer than 14 points in the second half as the Knights' hot shooting remained constant throughout. UCF shot 52.9 percent from the floor and 55.6 percent from three-point range. Freshman Celeste Hudson led the way from behind the arc, hitting three of her four shots from long range. Classmate LaShay King, who has struggled to see playing time, scored a career-high 11 points on perfect five-for-five shooting.

"LaShay is a great basketball player," Striegler said. "She definitely gave us a needed spark tonight and LaShay can do that. It's just getting LaShay comfortable with everything we're doing."

King scored those 11 points in just 12 minutes on the court. Senior Erin Paige scored 12 points and sophomore Ali Roberts just missed registering a double-double with 10 points and nine rebounds. It was the first time this season the Knights had four players reach double figures in points.

The Knights host preseason A-Sun South Division favorite Florida Atlantic at 3 p.m. Saturday.

"If you want to win the conference on this side, you've got to beat FAU," Striegler said.

Season begins today for women's tennis team

FROM PAGE 10

"It's a big assignment for a freshman, but I think she can do it. She's mentally prepared," Allison said.

Also playing in doubles are sophomore Kristina Lohmos and junior Amira Samara. Newcomer Ola Luczak, a recruit from the University of Kentucky, will add to the team after having an outstanding 7-2 fall season.

With that success, Allison has high goals for her team.

"We'd like to win our conference," Allison said. "We will play eight teams nationally ranked in the Top 75. If we can win against these top teams, then we should be able to solidify our spot in the ranks."

This will not be an easy task, as the Knights still have a tough schedule this year. But, they have a game plan.

"We have to play one match at a time," Allison said. "We have to beat them and if we don't, then it's back to the drawing board and we'll go after the next opponent."

As for long-term goals, Allison would like to see national attention.

"We'd like to be Top 40 and then Top 30. And of course, once we're at Top 30, we'll want Top 20," Allison said.

Allison has nothing but faith in her team.

"I think we have a good team — a very solid team, and that we have a chance to win our conference again this year," she said. "They have a great work ethic. When they mess up, they work even harder."

These athletes seek excellence off the court, as well. From 2000-2002, the UCF women's tennis team has been named to the International Tennis Association All-Academic Team. The Knights are prepared for the title yet again, as the Knights have averaged a 3.41 for the fall semester.

"They have an awful lot to be proud of. They're good, solid people and they work so hard. I respect so much what they do."

The Knights kick off the spring season at 2 p.m. today at home against Jacksonville.

Orlando Jai-Alai and Race Book

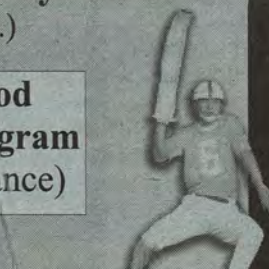
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Thursday January 23, 2003

Lifestyles

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Highlights of the cultural calendar

SHELLEY MARMOR
STAFF WRITER

Thursday, Jan. 23

Choosing/Changing Majors Workshop

Sponsored by the Career Resource Center, this workshop helps students pick a major if they do not have one or are currently undecided. The staff from the center will assist students with questions about this process, and even administer personality tests to help students find a field of study that best suits their interests. The session begins at 3 p.m. in the Student Resource Center, room 185; call 407-823-2361.

Friday, Jan. 24

'GlamourPuss'

This one-of-a-kind, Moulin Rouge-esque event features everything from DJs to drag queens to dancing. This new Friday night spectacular is created by William Waldren, originator of shows at clubs such as the Go Lounge and Yab Yum. The doors open at 9:30 p.m. at the Social, 54 N. Orange Ave.; \$6 for women, \$8 for men, 21-and-up; call 407-246-1599.

Saturday, Jan. 25

African-American History Exhibit

The Orange County Regional History Center's newest exhibit, "How Distant Seems Our Starting Place: The Triumphs and Tragedies of the African-American Community in Central Florida," traces the role of African-Americans in local history through photos that depict such events as a 1960s lunch counter sit-in. The History Center is open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily except Sunday, when the hours are noon-5 p.m.; 65 E. Central Blvd.; \$7; call 407-836-8500.

Sunday, Jan. 26

Open-mic Night

SusieCool, Orlando's unofficial "open-mic-know-it-all," and Vick DeGiorgio host "Open Mic-ro Brew Night" at Friends Lounge, 2083 Aloma Ave. in Winter Park. This event is open to all types of performers with stage time limited to 20 minutes; 8 p.m.; free and open to all ages; call 407-649-1944.

Monday, Jan. 27

UCF Charity Ball

The LEAD Scholars Alumni Council hosts its charity ball to benefit A Safe Haven for Newborns, which helps support abandoned babies in the Orlando area. This is a formal event, which will also feature live music, dancing, food and prizes. Festivities take place in the Pegasus Ballroom at 6 p.m.; \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door; contact Rebecca McCain at 407-823-2223.

Tuesday, Jan. 28

'Phat n' Jazzy'

2002 Orlando Music Awards nominees DJ BMF and MC Swamburger, as well as Gerard Mitchell, spin live at this weekly event. "Phat n' Jazzy" has been a permanent Tuesday-night fixture at the Social for seven years now. Women get in free before 11 p.m., and two-for-one drinks are served until midnight. Doors open at 10 p.m.; \$5; 21-and-up; call 407-246-1599.

Wednesday, Jan. 29

Honk Protest

Join fellow UCF students at Alafaya Trail and University Boulevard for a Honk Protest. Bring signs that represent any cause you believe in, from peace to recycling, and everything in between. Protesters will depart from the Free Speech Lawn, located on the south side of the library in front of the Math & Physics building, at 4:20 p.m. and walk to the intersection together. The protest begins at 4:30 p.m.; contact Ryan Browne at greenliferyan@yahoo.com.

Thursday, Jan. 30

Luna in Concert

Since forming over a decade ago, the melodic pop-rock band Luna has gained a legion of devoted fans that remain as loyal to the band as the band has stayed to their musical roots. Luna has been a regular on college music charts and the 2002 release of its fifth studio recording, "Romantica," has been no different. Luna performs at the Social, 45 N. Orange Ave.; \$12 in advance, \$14 day of the show; 8 p.m.; 18-and-up; call 407-246-1599.

Fumbling for football knowledge

When Super Bowl Sunday rolls around, will you know how to follow the game?

CHARLES MAIER
STAFF WRITER

This Sunday is the biggest sporting event in American culture. And while house-holds all over the nation will gather around television sets to watch the biggest football game of the year, the Super Bowl, some viewers won't be able to tell the difference between a tackle and a touchdown. If that's you, read our crash course football guide, and you'll finally get more out of the game than just commercial interruptions.

Between the hashmarks

The game is played on a football field, which is 100 yards long. There is an end zone at either end of the field. The game is divided into four 15-minute quarters.

The teams

You need to pick a team to root for, and stick with that team, no matter how the game is going. No one likes a person who switches the team he or she is rooting for with every play.

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers will be playing against the Oakland Raiders. "The Bucs," as they are commonly referred to, will be wearing red and pewter; the Raiders will be wearing black and gray.

The Bucs have the No. 1 defense in the nation, and the Raiders have the No. 1 offense. Something has to give.

The lineup

Oakland quarterback Rich Gannon, No. 12, leads the Raiders' offense, which features future Hall of Fame wide receivers Jerry Rice, No. 80, and Tim Brown, No. 81. Tampa Bay's defense has many stars, including defensive tackle Warren Sapp.

PLEASE SEE *Gear* ON 15

GESTURES

Some common motions you will see the referees make are:

Score: The referee will put both hands straight up in the air. This is done when either a field goal or a touchdown happens.

Completed pass: The referee will put his fists in front of his face, palms in, and pull them down to his sternum. This means the player successfully caught the ball.

Incomplete pass: The referee will

wave both his open hands horizontal to the ground. This means the player did not catch the ball.

Time out: The referee will wave both his open hands over his head, vertical to the ground. This stops the clock.

First down: The referee will make a "chopping" motion with one hand from the side of his head forward. This means the

offense has gone at least 10 yards and received another set of downs.

Time in: The referee makes a big circle vertical to the ground on the side of his body. The referee will put the ball down and do this, or do this after a player finishes running the ball. This is done to start the 40-second play clock and lets the time keeper know not to stop the game clock.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTOPHER ARNOLD / CFF;
PHOTO BY ADAM SHIVER / CFF

Searching for my subconscious

THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED



LINNEA BROWN
STAFF WRITER

"Let's talk a little bit about going into the future," cooed a middle-aged version of Heather Locklear, commanding the attention of the wide-eyed group gath-

ered in front of her.

"The future," echoed a portly man, stroking his thick brown beard with reverence. Speaking quietly into a small microphone, the woman, dressed in black boots and a turquoise skirt and jacket, allowed her piercing blue eyes to settle comfortably upon each of her eight students.

I glanced curiously around the small, dimly lit yellow room. A bookcase was located in one corner, a lamp in another. Resembling a small chapel, a dozen metal chairs were arranged neatly into three rows on the wooden floor, occupied by

an ageless group of attentive answer-seekers.

Spooky. Needless to say, this was my first time attending a group hypnosis session.

Last Wednesday evening, I forked over \$10 dollars for a shot at certified hypnotist Diane L. Ross' hour-long, weekly hypnosis class known as Cutting Edge Consciousness. The room was located in The Sage Center, a converted house on Fern Creek Avenue.

When I called Ross earlier that day to get directions, she informed me of the meeting's focus. "Tonight we'll be traveling

into the future," she breezed. "And not only your own future, but an earth-based future."

Right...whatever that meant.

When I explained my objective as a columnist, Ross delightfully informed me that she had spent years working as a journalist before pursuing hypnosis through the National Guild of Hypnotists and the American Board of Hypnotherapy.

I briefly entertained the fantasy of repressing my journalistic tendencies and becoming a professional Voodoo spell-caster

PLEASE SEE *Spelling* ON 17

Gear up to become a football fanatic

FROM PAGE 14

No. 99, and linebacker Derrick Brooks, No. 55.

Tampa Bay quarterback Brad Johnson, No. 14, directs the Bucs' offense. Veteran Pro Bowl safety Rod Woodson leads the Oakland defense.

The score

There are several ways to score points in a football game.

Touchdown: Worth six points. This happens when one team carries or catches the football in the other team's end zone.

The PAT: After a touchdown, the scoring team has the option to kick the ball through the uprights for one additional point.

-or-

Two-point conversion: The scoring team can try for a two-point conversion. This is like scoring another touchdown, but it's only worth two points. Generally teams do not go for two points until late in the game.

Field goal: The field goal is worth three points. A team has to kick the football through the uprights to get this. This is usually attempted only on fourth downs, and the ball has to be close enough to the uprights for a kicker to try this, usually within 50 yards.

Time

The game clock runs constantly, but can be stopped periodically throughout the game. The two most common ways are when a pass is incomplete or a player runs out-of-bounds. Time is also stopped

at the end of each quarter and with two minutes to go in the second and forth quarters. Either team can also call a timeout, up to three times in each half. The officials can also stop the game at any time, or a head coach can challenge a call by the officials.

A challenge is when the coach simply throws a red flag onto the field. The officials will then review the play. A coach can do this twice per half. If the coach wins the argument, the referee will overturn the call. The team loses one of its timeouts if the coach loses the argument.

Clock manipulation is one of the key points to winning a football game. The winning team will run the ball a lot, trying to use up as much time as possible, giving the opposing team as little time to work with as they can.

Moving the ball

Each team has four downs to move the ball. If the team can go at least 10 yards in any combination of passing and running, the team is given a new set of downs. If, on the fourth down, the team has not moved the ball forward 10 yards, the team has to decide to go for it, punt or attempt a field goal.

Punt: The offense simply kicks the ball to the defense.

Field goal: Explained earlier.

Go for it: This usually only happens in the following situations: when the offense is on the defense's side of the football field, the offense has only half a yard or less to go, the offense is too close to the defense's end zone to punt but to far to try a

field goal, the team that has the ball is losing, or the game is almost over.

Penalties

Perhaps the most confusing part of the game. The ones you will see broken the most and the gestures the referees use to signal them are:

False start: This is signaled by the referee twisting his hands in a circle in front of his body. If someone on offense moves before the ball is snapped, the play is stopped and the offense is moved back five yards.

Holding: This is signaled by the referee grabbing one wrist with his other hand. No one is allowed to be held except the ball carrier. The offense is penalized 10 yards for holding; the defense five.

Pass interference: This is signaled by the referee pushing his hands out from his chest. This can be called on either the offense or defense. These are the calls that really get the crowd worked up. A player has a right to catch the football, and cannot be touched by another player until the ball is touched first. If pass interference is called on the defense, the offense gets the ball wherever the penalty happened. If it's called on the offense, the team is penalized 10 yards.

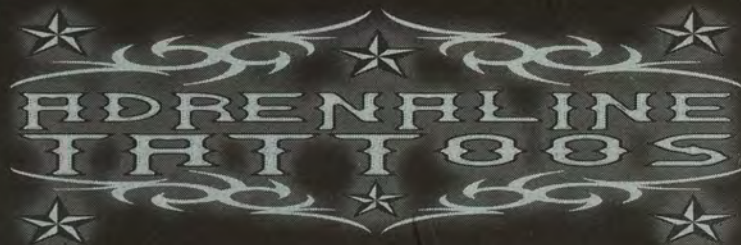
And there you have it. You should be able to follow about 95 percent of the Super Bowl now. If you come across something during the game I haven't mentioned, or if you forget some of these basics, remember: Look at the other people's reactions and follow them.

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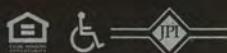
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Work-out fear stops some

Students sweat the idea of shaping up at the gym

MIKE RIEGEL
STAFF WRITER

Most people go to the gym to work up a sweat. Others, like 22-year-old junior Karen Mauras, start sweating before they ever reach the gym. Mauras is afraid of the gym, and that fear keeps her from doing what she wants to do most — get in shape.

"I went [to the UCF Recreation and Wellness Center] for about five minutes," Mauras said. "It was just overwhelming. It was huge and there were people and machines everywhere. I walked in, and then I walked right back out."

Freshman Darin Bailey, 18, also finds the gym to be an especially unnerving place.

"I've tried going to work out a few times, but it's intimidating," he said. "I think if I were watching myself in there, I would look really out of place."

Sophomore Daniel Reardon, 20, can't seem to overcome his fear of the gym either.

"People are posing and sizing each other up constantly," he said. "I don't want to know what they're thinking about me, so I look for reasons not to go [to the gym]."

While a fear of working out in the gym may not technically qualify as a medical condition, plenty of students simply find the experience too demoralizing and choose to side-step the idea of getting physically fit, at least in the company of others.

Steve Torres, a freelance trainer who has worked with professional athletes in the Orlando area, agrees the condition isn't medical, but more likely a case of low self-esteem.

It is essential to remember the narcissistic nature of working out, he said.

"Keeping the focus inward will detract from the surroundings," he said.

But Matt Fitzgerald, building manager at UCF's Recreation and Wellness Center, has a different view of the gym patrons.

"I see people here of all

body types doing all types of exercises," he said.

Both agree, however, that students can overcome their fear of the gym very easily if they really are motivated to work out.

Fitzgerald suggests finding a supportive friend who can offer positive reinforcement. And mapping out a fitness plan will also keep students focused on their goals, instead of their insecurities, he said.

"Many people will have a goal in mind and ask [a staff member] about the best way to reach it," Fitzgerald said.

That's exactly how sophomore Julie Rekar, 19, overcame her fear.

"I didn't want to go; I didn't like it and was hard to keep coming back," she said. "Having a plan was what got me through the beginning."

The next hurdle is the equipment. Fitzgerald says often students are apprehensive about working out with equip-

"I've tried going to workout a few times, but it's intimidating. I think if I were watching myself in there, I would look really out of place."

—DARIN BAILEY
Freshman, 18

ment they aren't sure how to use.

"If a staff member sees someone with a confused look on their face, or they ask us a question, we're more than happy to demonstrate and help out," he said.

If the prospect of going to the gym is still too imposing, Torres recommends a small investment in some home exercise equipment. This will allow for the training to start in private before plunging headfirst into gymnasium culture.

"I tell all my clients that at some point everyone went to the gym for the first time, and everyone experiences these types of feelings," he said. "The workouts might get harder, but going to the gym will get easier."



NATALIA ZULUAGA / CFF

The owner of Pat's Liquors, Leaf & Wine, Mitch Patel, enjoys his day at work with his friends surrounded with a store full of alcohol.

A shot at success

UCF student owns thriving local liquor store

BECKA KULCHAK
STAFF WRITER

"Sip it, Shoot it, Chug it," or so goes the motto at Pat's Liquors, Leaf & Wine.

Junior aerospace major Mitch Patel is not a normal 23-year-old college student. Most college students usually work part-time or full-time jobs in stores before or after school and during the weekends, but not Patel. Thanks to the financial support of his family and a bank loan, he has been the successful owner of Pat's Liquors, Leaf & Wine, located on the corner of McCulloch and Alafaya in the Publix shopping plaza next to Blockbuster, since August of 2001.

"This job has definitely given me a lot of perks," Patel said. "I got to see Jimmy Buffet for free and attend Gator Growl with box seats, and I've even gotten a few tickets to the Magic games with box seats in the V.I.P. section. Plus, there was this one time down in South Beach at the Playboy party — I mean it's been crazy — I wouldn't give it up for anything."

Patel was born in the United Kingdom and moved to the States with his family when he was 16-years-old. His parents own a bar in Fort Lauderdale, so it was only natural for Patel to open a liquor store while at college.

"I would never sell this place," Patel said. "It's not just mine, it belongs to my friends and family too; they helped me build it up. When I first got it, it had been a doctor's office and we had to knock down walls and paint over everything. Everybody worked together to turn it into what it is now. I couldn't have done it without them."

With all of Patel's friends working at Pat's Liquors, Leaf & Wine, it is like one big family, with Patel heading up the household as the father figure.

Patel sometimes works up to 60 hours a week since his store is open from 11 a.m. until midnight on

weekdays and 11 a.m. until 2 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Yet, he hardly notices it.

"It's just like any other after school job, I get to goof off and have fun, the only difference is that I have a lot of responsibility," he said. "It's a very relaxed job, I don't make any of my employees push a customer to buy something, I don't believe in that."

Although Patel said he has not tasted everything in the store, he can still tell the difference between the "top shelf and the regular stuff."

"I like being truthful about the product, if someone asks if a wine is good then I'm going to tell them," he said.

Most of the customers that come in are just regular college students and workers, he added.

"Some people come in and you know what to grab off the shelf," sophomore biology major Josh Haupt, 20, an employee at Pat's Liquors, Leaf & Wine said.

But when running a liquor store, the occasional alcoholic is inescapable.

"We open at eleven in the morning and sometimes people are waiting at the door," he added. "Sometimes you see someone everyday for two weeks straight buying the same thing and then they disappear. It usually turns out they were in rehab. I don't usually get a lot of crazy drunks in here; it's generally a pretty cool clientele."

There are also often numerous attempts by underage drinkers to buy alcohol.

"I try to be cool about the underage drinkers," Patel said. "Some people want to embarrass them, but I give them a nod, they usually get the picture and leave quietly. Sometimes though, I'll get some guy swearing up and down about how his I.D. is real, but I can't sell to some guy like that."

Patel has recently had to take some time off from school to keep up with his competition, the new Wal-Mart liquor store that opened

across the street from Patel's store, as well as the other locally owned stores located within a three-mile radius.

"I've had to take the semester off, but I still play for the Rugby team," Patel said. "When the team has recruitment parties we're responsible for the ice slides, it's a custom-made thing we do here at the store."

Aside from ice slides, Patel also gives back to the UCF community by offering free liquor samples on Friday and Saturday nights from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. It's a great way to thank all the loyal customers that have patronized the store since its opening in August, Patel said.

"When there are home games I like to give back," he said. "We go out to the games and set up a tent and give away free stuff. Sometimes it's T-shirts or whatever promotional stuff we have saved up, but we always like to give away some liquor. You'd be surprised at what some people will do for free alcohol."

Working at Pat's Liquors, Leaf & Wine is different from everything else, Haupt said.

"It's just crazy working here; people are always coming in inviting us to parties," he said. "We're always having fun even if there isn't anything going on in the store. Everybody that works at the store is friends, we work late, then we go out and party."

Senior mechanical engineering major Josh Bradley, 22, has worked for Patel since he first opened the store.

"Working here is cool because you get to meet everybody that goes to UCF," Bradley said. "We get invited to all the parties and meet some very cool people. It's just the perks of the job."

Patel said he is staying with Pat's Liquors, Leaf & Wine for the time being and is just waiting to see where it will take him.

"I've got no plans right now, I'm just enjoying the ride."



BRETT HART / CFF

The busy crowds of the Rec Center make many students self-conscious.

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Spelling out the future

FROM PAGE 14

instead. However, a quick flashback of the fraudulent walking corpse in "Weekend at Bernie's II" brought me swiftly back to reality.

Ross was calmly explaining the various levels of consciousness that one could reach during hypnosis. "We don't want to go into the Theta level, which is the deepest level of consciousness, because you won't remember anything," Ross explained. "We only want to go as far as Alpha-level consciousness, which is the feeling you get right before you fall asleep — when you're almost dreaming but you can still hear everything."

Inwardly, I breathed a deep sigh of relief. I had been getting horrible mental pictures of falling into a trance so deep that I would become a zombie for the rest of my life (think, the heart-attack-hypnosis in "Office Space" gone bad). Or worse, being brain-washed into joining the Heaven's Gate cult...or something.

Here goes nothing, I thought, attempting to squelch the butterflies in my stomach as Ross instructed us to relax and pressed play on her cassette

player. Soft, futuristic music filled the room as Ross continued to speak into the microphone, talking us through a step-by-step process of relaxing every muscle in our bodies, then our minds.

To be perfectly honest, I'm still not sure if I was really hypnotized or just half-dreaming. But whatever it was, it was pretty cool.

While in an altered state, Ross asked us to look at our lives in one year, five years, 10 years and 100 years. She then asked us to look at the Earth and how people were living in 100 years, then 500 years. When our session was over and Ross had firmly guided us back from la-la land, she encouraged us to share our experiences and visions.

In the 10-year vision, one woman said she met her unmarried, childless friend's future 8-year-old son; in the one-year vision, a man saw himself with his mother...at his father's funeral. "The spirit guides knew you were coming," Ross said knowingly.

As for my own hypnotic visions, I had a couple of nightmarish visions about misery and loved ones myself.

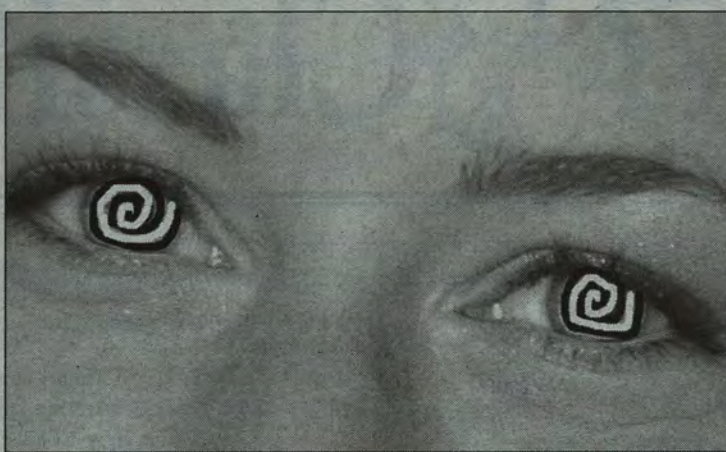


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY LINNEA BROWN / CFF

Believing in hypnosis may just be a matter of looking deep into the eyes of the beholder.

However, I'm too skeptical to jump to the conclusion that those visions were prophetic or truthful; instead, I think they may have simply been a product of the things I felt subconsciously guilty about.

One hilarious example of this self-reproach was the horrible nightmare/vision of getting a Dolly Parton-sized surgically enhanced bust, which I shared with the group.

"Maybe you're trying to get something off your chest," one man suggested solemnly.

The group members' 100-year predictions were less believable. Every one of them seemed to have seen the same colorless, stereotypical foresight of rubble everywhere and people living underground. Now perhaps their predictions were accurate, but I must admit that I saw nothing except campy reruns of "The Jetsons" running through my head, which I doubt was anything more than my overactive imagination.

But who cared? Regardless of the visions' truth value, my imaginings were enough to warn me that I'd better make a few changes in my life now to prevent inevitable failure later. So the question of whether or not I buy into all that 'floaty-woaty' stuff is no longer relevant. Instead, I now respect hypnosis as a highly misunderstood tool that can motivate people by allowing them to listen to their deepest intuitions.

As we walked out of the Sage building, I learned that the brown-bearded man was a certified hypnotist who brings his hypnosis act to colleges and clubs.

"Who knows, I might do a show at UCF soon," he boomed heartily. "You can be one of my on-stage guinea pigs."

And have him trick me into behaving like a real guinea pig?

Maybe next lifetime; I don't think I'm quite ready for the hypnosis performance circuit yet.

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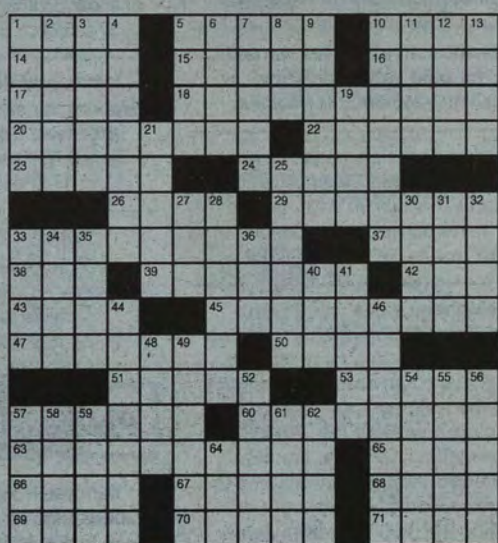
Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Booty
- 5 Madison Ave. type
- 10 Salve
- 14 Scarlett's plantation
- 15 Form of bingo
- 16 Toledo's lake
- 17 Mellowed, as wine
- 18 Sellers film
- 20 Lasting
- 22 Attacks
- 23 Computer key
- 24 Omits
- 26 One Jackson
- 29 Put on the hard drive
- 33 Undrawn, as a gun
- 37 Blackthorn
- 38 Lyricist
- 39 Gershwin
- 39 Everlasting
- 42 Lodging house
- 43 Radar's favorite beverage
- 45 Alumni
- 47 Funnel cloud
- 50 Early computer game
- 51 Was radiant
- 53 Fabler of yore
- 57 Henry Clay or Daniel Webster
- 60 Epitome of deadness
- 63 Compensations
- 65 Sci-fi classic
- 66 Yemeni capital
- 67 Cyber messages
- 68 "Diana" singer
- 69 Misplaced
- 70 Actress Rene
- 71 Wise off

DOWN

- 1 Not fresh
- 2 Conestoga
- 3 "You Glad You're You?"
- 4 Gizmos
- 5 French clergyman
- 6 Caribou cousin
- 7 Injures severely



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01/23/03

Please see
solutions
on page 19

- 8 Author Beattie
- 9 Noodle
- 10 Urgent requests
- 11 God of war
- 12 Old money in Milan
- 13 Bump into
- 19 First-rate
- 21 Banal
- 25 Abduct
- 27 Hanoi holiday
- 28 Mount Hood's state
- 30 Touched ground
- 31 Solitary
- 32 Part of SLR
- 33 Subtle bit of help
- 34 Nabisco cookie
- 35 Cohort of Haley and Bolger
- 36 Bobble the ball
- 40 Ruckus
- 41 Crescent-shaped
- 44 Moment
- 46 Meeting schedules
- 48 Nautical "Yo!"

- 49 Gabled window
- 52 Ferber and O'Brien
- 54 Finnish bath
- 55 Piggy grunts
- 56 Entreaties
- 57 Unwritten, as a contract
- 58 Make again
- 59 Tarzan's friends
- 61 Elevator man?
- 62 Scandinavian capital
- 64 Aussie bird

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\$1250 per/mo (inclu W/D) 1st, Sec.
Deposit + Last Month. Roommate
situation ok. Call 321-229-6726.

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Roommate needed to take over lease
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Room for Rent in 3bd/2ba House in
Waterford Lakes. Quiet Neigh, W/D,
furnished, and ethernet. \$350/month
+ 1/3 util. Call Scott at (407)399-6962.

Room available. 10 minutes from
UCF. \$375/mnth. Incl. util. + W/D.
Female preferred. Call 407-929-1391.

Sublease in Northgate Lakes Apt. avlb.
asap. 4 bed/2 bath. All util. incl.
\$400/mnth. Call Sarah at 850-543-3352
or e-mail Skloyd@aol.com.

Looking for an apartment in Alafaya
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407-257-0011 or leave message.

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